

Message Text

PAGE 01 STOCKH 01472 01 OF 02 021619 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 021544 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9984

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1472

EXDIS

E. O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP SW US

SUBJECT WICKMAN AMENDS HIS STATEMENTS TO CHARGE ON KISSINGER
VISIT

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 1425; (B) STATE 80494

BEGIN SUMMARY. BEFORE I COULD GET APPOINTMENT TO ADVISE FOREIGN
MINSTER WICKMAN THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL NOT COME TO BILDERBERG
MEETING, STATE SECRETARY ASTROM CALLED ME IN TO " CLARIFY" (IN
FACT, AMEND) WICKMAN'S APRIL 27 STATEMENT TO ME. ASTROM SAID
DR. KISSINGER WAS WELCOME IN SWEDEN AND WICKMAN WOULD LIKE TO
TALK TO HIM. ONLY DIFFICULTY WAS CONDITION THAT DR. KISSINGER
WOULD NOT DISCUSS U. S.- SWEDISH RELATIONS WITH ANY GOS OFFICIAL,
WHICH WOULD BE " AWKWARD," " EMBARRASSING" AND " UNTENABLE."
UNDER QUESTIONING, ASTROM INDICATED WICKMAN (OR PALME) FEELS HE
HAS TO BE ABLE TO SAY PUBLICLY AFTER BILDERBERG MEETING THAT
U. S.- SWEDISH RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED WITH DR. KISSINGER. I
SAID I WOULD CONVEY " CLARIFICATION" TO APPROPRIATE PEOPLE.
ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER TO PRESS FOR WICKMAN
APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTE REF BE INSTRUCTION. END SUMMARY.

1. MFA BEING CLOSED OVER LONG MAY DAY WEEKEND, I WAS UNABLE TO
ACT ON REF B UNTIL MFA REOPENED MAY 2. I CALLED WICKMAN'S
PERSONAL AIDE (LUNDELIUS) THIS MORNING FOR APPOINTMENT. AN HOUR
LATER LANDELIUS CALLED TO SAY STATE SECRETARY ASTROM WISHED TO
SEE ME. I SAID MY REQUEST WAS TO SEE WICKMAN. LANDELIUS SAID
THAT APART FROM MY REQUEST ASTROM WISHED TO SEE ME AND WE AGREED
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TO 12:30 PM.

2. ASTROM BEGAN BY SAYING THAT WICKMAN HAD ASKED HIM TO MAKE
" QUITE SURE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND MR. WICKMAN'S VIEWS ON THE

VISIT OF DR. KISSINGER." HE THEN DELIVERED AN OBVIOUSLY CAREFULLY PREPARED STATEMENT, REFERRING OCCASIONALLY TO NOTES ON A PAD BEFORE HIM.

3. ASTROM SAID THAT WICKMAN WANTED TO BE " QUITE CLEAR" THAT KISSINGER WAS ENTIRELY FREE TO COME TO SWEDEN AND THAT, AS FAR AS GOS WAS CONCERNED, HE WAS MOST WELCOME. ASTROM SAID HE HOPED THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING THERE, THAT GOS INTERPOSED NO OBSTACLE TO HIS VISIT TO SWEDEN. I SAID I HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD WICKMAN TO DECLARE DR. KISSINGER PERSONA NON GRATA IN SWEDEN AND HAD NOT SO REPORTED.

4. ASTROM SAID WHAT WICKMAN HAD MEANT TO CONVEY WAS MERELY THAT " UNDER THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY DR. KISSINGER FOR HIS VISIT ONE COULD FORESEE A CERTAIN DIFFICULTY - PERHAPS MUTUAL EMBARRASSMENT - IF HE SHOULD COME." ASTROM WENT ON TO SAY THAT OF COURSE MEMBERS OF GOS WOULD ENCOUNTER DR. KISSINGER AT BILDERBERG MEETINGS AND IT WOULD BE " STRANGE" IF THEY AVOIDED CONTACT WITH HIM IN THOSE RESTRICTED SURROUNDINGS. ON OTHER HAND, HE CONTINUED, IT DID NOT SEEM " FEASIBLE" THAT A GOS MINISTER COULD CHAT WITH KISSINGER OVER COFFEE ABOUT STATE OF THE WORLD AND / NEVER UTTER ONE WORD ABOUT SWEDISH- AMERICAN RELATIONS." THIS WOULD BE A SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE " AWKWARD AND REALLY UNTENABLE."

5. ASTROM WENT OVER THIS GROUND ABOUT TWO AND ONE- HALF TIMES, PHRASING HIS POINTS A BIT DIFFERENTLY EACH TIME AROUND. WHEN HE CONCLUDED, I REPLIED THAT THE EXPRESSION OF WICKMAN' S VIEW HE HAD JUST GIVEN ME DID NOT CORRESPOND PRECISELY TO WHAT I HAD HEARD THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY. I SAID I WOULD REPEAT TO HIM WHAT I HAD BEEN TOLD AND WHAT I HAD REPORTED TO MY GOVERNMENT. I THEN WENT OVER SUBSTANCE OF WHAT I HAD REPORTED (REF A).

6. I SAID THAT, OUT OF FEAR OF A MISUNDERSTANDING, I HAD CAREFULLY EXPLAINED LIMITATIONS DR. KISSINGER WOULD PLACE ON HIS ACTIVITIES IF HE CAME TO SWEDEN. I SAID WHAT HE EXCLUDED WAS APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE OF BILDERBERG CIRCLE OR ANY DISCUSSIONS
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WITH GOS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS ON BEHALF OF USG. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD HE MADE NO RESERVATIONS ON WHAT HE MIGHT DISCUSS PRIVATE PERSON OVER COFFEE IN SALTSJOBADEN HOTEL LOBBY.

7. ASTROM TOOK ME OVER THE COURSE ONCE AGAIN, ADDING THE FOLLOWING: " WHAT CONCERNS THE MINISTER IS THAT TO PUBLICLY EXCLUDING ANY DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE ARTIFICIAL, AND EMBARRASSING REALLY, TO BOTH SIDES." I SEIZED ON WORD " PUBLICLY" AND SAID DR. KISSINGER HAD NOT LAID DOWN ANY CONDITIONS IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT AND CERTAINLY WAS MOST UNLIKELY TO DO SO. ASTROM SAID: " WELL OF COURSE REPORTERS WILL ASK QUESTIONS AFTER THE MEETING. THEY WOULD WISH TO KNOW WHETHER BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED. WE WOULD HAVE TO SAY NO

BECAUSE DR. KISSINGER WAS UNWILLING TO. MR. WICKMAN FEELS THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT SITUATION WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS."

8. I SAID THAT I DID NOT SEE THAT ANY BILDERBERG PARTICIPANT HAD TO SAY ANYTHING AFTERWARD. HISTORICALLY, IN FACT, PARTICIPANTS DID NOT AND THIS WAS JUDGED TO BE ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE INSTITUTION. ASTROM SAID IT WAS REALLY NOT " PRACTICAL " TO EXPECT THAT NOTHING COULD BE SAID ABOUT ANY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND GOS OFFICIALS AT BILDERBERG.

9. I TOLD HIM I WOULD REPORT FULLY ON HIS ELABORATION OF WICKMAN' S VIEWS. I SAID I THOUGHT HE SHOULD KNOW THAT THE PURPOSE OF MY SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE MINISTER WAS TO ADVISE HIM THAT DR. KISSINGER WOULD NOT ATTEND THE BILDERBERG MEETING AND TO POINT OUT JUDGEMENT OF USG THAT SWEDISH ATTITUDE ON THIS MATTER DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO PRODUCING ATMOSPHERE CON- DUCIVE TO IMPROVING U. S.- SWEDISH RELATIONS.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9985

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1472

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10. ASTROM NOTED ON PAPER WHAT I SAID AND RESPONDED: " THE MINISTER WISHES TO STRESS THAT HE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. KISSINGER AND WOULD WELCOME HIS COMING TO SWEDEN. HE ONLY POINTS OUT THE DIFFICULTY CREATED BY THE CONDITIONS HE HAS LAID DOWN." I SAID I WOULD CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO MY GOVERNMENT.

11. I CONCLUDED THE INTERVIEW BY RAISING WHAT I CALLED " A NOT ENTIRELY UNRELATED SUBJECT." I SAID I HAD READ WICKMAN' S RIKSDAG STATEMENT ON CAMBODIA AND HAD READ PRESS ACCOUNTS OF HIS MAY DAY SPEECH (SEPTEL) AND WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION GOS MAY BE LABORING UNDER INSUFFICIENCY OF INFORMATION ON CONDI- TIONS IN THAT COUNTRY AND U. S. POLICY THERETO. FORTUNATELY SECRETARY ROGERS HAD JUST PRESENTED U. S. SENATE WITH COMPREHEN- SIVE EXPOSITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF U. S. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

TOWARD CAMBODIA UNDER CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS. I PRESENTED

ASTROM COPY OF MEMORANDUM WITH HOPE WICKMAN WOULD FIND IT INFORMATIVE READING. WITH SMILE, ASTROM SAID HE APPRECIATED MY THOUGHTFULNESS.

12. COMMENT: IT SEEMS FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS ARE WARRANTED FROM THIS RATHER BIZARRE INTERVIEW: (1) WICKMAN DECIDED ON REFLECTION OVER THE WEEKEND THAT HE HAD OVERDONE IT IN INDICATING DR. KISSINGER WAS NOT WANTED IN SWEDEN. (POSSIBLY HIS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TIPPED HIM ON THE REACTION THAT WAS FORTHCOMING.) (2) ASTROM WAS TOLD TO " CLARIFY" (ACTUALLY TO AMEND) WICKMAN'S POSITION TO ELIMINATE ITS GRACELESSNESS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO CONVEY MESSAGE THAT GOS WANTS KISSINGER TO COME, WITH ONE PROVISIO. (3) THIS PROVISIO IS THAT PALME OR WICKMAN WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ABLE TO SAY TO PRESS AFTER BILDERBERG MEETING THAT U. S. - SWEDISH RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED WITH KISSINGER.(WICKMAN'S VIEW IS CLEARLY THAT TO BE UNABLE TO SAY AT LEAST THAT MUCH WOULD BE HUMILIATING. THAT IS PROBABLY AN HONEST JUDGMENT, BUT IT IS ALSO PROBABLY TRUE THAT PALME WOULD NEVER CONTENT HIMSELF WITH ONE TERSE SENTENCE; HE WOULD NO DOUBT HAVE QUITE A BIT TO SAY ABOUT CONVERSATION WHICH TOOK PLACE.)

I TOLD ASTROM I WOULD KEEP HIM ABREAST OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD MEANWHILE LEAVE IN MY REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH WICKMAN, ALTHOUGH IN VIEW OF POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVING TODAY I DID NOT EXPECT HE WOULD FIND TIME TO SEE ME FOR A DAY OR TWO. I AM SURE ASTROM WILL SEE THAT I HAVE TIME TO GET A CHANGE OF INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE I SEE WICKMAN. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER I SHOULD PRESS FOR WICKMAN APPOINTMENT TO DELIVER REF B MESSAGE.
OLSEN

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